

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:142
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
EARTHQUAKE IN GUJARAT
M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated loss of lives and property due to recent earthquake in Gujarat;
- (b) whether due to shortage of equipment, hundreds of lives could not be saved in time;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government have also deputed Central Team to the State of Gujarat for making assessment of loss;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the details of Central assistance provided to Government of Gujarat against their demand in addition to calamity relief fund alongwith the quantum of donations/financial assistance received so far within and outside the country;
- (g) whether any foolproof mechanism has been evolved for proper monitoring of the relief and rehabilitation process;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for such eventuality in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

- (a) to (i): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 142 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH MARCH, 2001.

(a): The State Government has reported loss of more than 19800 human lives and estimated the damage, based on preliminary assessment, at about Rs.21,000 crore.

(b)&(c): It was a calamity of unprecedented magnitude which caused large-scale damage to houses over extensive areas in Gujarat and also resulted in the break-down of vital infrastructure. Despite physical limitations, rescue and relief operation was started immediately by State officials. Armed Forces and ParaMilitary Forces were also deployed for assisting in the operations. Foreign teams with sniffer dogs have also helped in search and rescue operations.

(d)&(e): An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is visiting the affected areas in the State tentatively from 6th March, 2001 for an on the spot assessment of the damage and assistance required by the State Government.

(f): Immediate assistance of Rs.500 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been released. As per reports received by this Ministry, the other State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have provided financial assistance amounting to about Rs.48.68 crore. The other countries and International organisations have contributed assistance of about Rs.175.00 crore, besides relief in the form of rescue teams, medical assistance, etc.

(g)&(h): The State Government has set up the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority for coordinating and overseeing all rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. A separate Department for earthquake relief has also been set up by the State. Senior Officers have been made incharge for coordinating relief.

(i): All the State Governments including Gujarat in seismic zones IV & V have been advised to update their Contingency Action Plan and take appropriate measures with emphasis on preparedness and public awareness.